

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 4 is cancelled, claims 1, 2, 5, 12 and 17 are amended and claims 19 to 21 are added as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A portable, hand-guided work apparatus defining a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a frame extending substantially in the direction of said longitudinal axis;

5       said frame having a first end and a second end lying opposite said first end;

an assembly including: a drive motor and a work tool driven by said drive motor and said assembly being fixed on said frame at said first end;

10       a handle unit mounted on said second end for guiding said work apparatus during operation thereof with said work tool being in contact engagement with the surface of the earth to be worked by said work tool thereby defining a work position of said work apparatus; ~~and,~~

15       said handle unit including two handles and two symmetrically configured handle tubes;

said two handles being mounted on respective ones of said handle tubes and being separate from each other; and,

20        said ~~handle unit~~ two handles being configured so as to be  
directed upwardly and away from said surface when said work  
apparatus is in said work position thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The work apparatus of claim 1, wherein  
said ~~handle unit includes~~ two handles which have a clear space  
therebetween and run upwardly toward each other when said work  
apparatus is in said work position.

3. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 2, wherein said two  
handles are inclined in a direction toward said work tool when  
said work apparatus is in said work position.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The work apparatus of ~~claim 4,~~ claim 1,  
wherein said handle tubes conjointly define an enclosed  
intermediate space open to an operator of said work apparatus.

5        6. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 5, wherein said  
handle tubes are pivotally mounted on said frame; and, wherein  
said work apparatus further comprises means for receiving and  
releasably holding said handle tubes when they are pivoted or  
folded over on said frame.

7. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 6, wherein said  
handle tubes are disposed on corresponding sides of said frame  
when said handle tubes are folded over.

8. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a rearward carrying handle mounted on the side of said frame facing toward said handle unit.

9. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a forward handle mounted in a region between said drive motor and said work tool.

10. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 9, wherein said forward handle lies approximately at the center of gravity when said handle tubes are folded over.

11. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 10, wherein said means for receiving and holding said handle tubes comprises lateral supports in which said handle tubes lie when said handle tubes are folded over.

12. (Currently Amended) The work apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a transverse strut connecting said handle tubes to each other; and, said transverse strut ~~lies~~ lying between said rearward handle and said drive motor when said handle tubes are folded over.

13. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 12, wherein said handle tubes conjointly define a plane; each of said handles and said plane conjointly define an angle ( $\alpha$ ) perpendicular to said longitudinal axis with said angle ( $\alpha$ ) being in a range of 60° to 85°.

14. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 13, wherein said angle ( $\alpha$ ) lies in a range of 70° to 80°.

15. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 13, wherein each of said handles and said plane conjointly define an angle ( $\beta$ ) in a range of 60° to 100° in the direction of said longitudinal axis.

16. (Original) The work apparatus of claim 15, wherein said angle ( $\beta$ ) lies in a range of 70° to 80°.

17. (Currently Amended) The work apparatus of claim 1, wherein said frame has a forward support and a rearward support; and, said forward support and said rearward support ~~defining~~ define an imaginary line running at a distance (a) from said work tool.

18. (Original) The work apparatus at claim 1, wherein said work apparatus is a motor-driven cultivator.

19. (New) A portable, hand-guided work apparatus defining a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a frame extending substantially in the direction of said longitudinal axis;

5        said frame having a first end and a second end lying opposite said first end;

an assembly including: a drive motor and a work tool driven by said drive motor and said drive motor of said assembly being fixedly mounted on said frame at said first end;

10           a handle unit mounted on said second end for guiding said  
work apparatus during operation thereof with said work tool being  
in contact engagement with the surface of the earth to be worked  
by said work tool thereby defining a work position of said work  
apparatus;

15           said handle unit including two handles and two symmetrically  
configured handle tubes;

          said two handles being mounted on respective ones of said  
handle tubes;

          said two handles being configured so as to be directed  
20   upwardly and away from said surface when said work apparatus is  
in said work position thereof; and,

          said motor having a drive shaft extending outwardly beyond  
said first end of said frame and said work tool being carried by  
said drive shaft for performing said work in the earth and to  
25   define the sole support on the ground of said work apparatus  
during operational use thereof.

20.   (New)   The work apparatus of claim 19, wherein said two  
handles are inclined in a direction toward said work tool when  
said work apparatus is in said work position.

21.   (New)   The work apparatus of claim 20, wherein said handle  
tubes conjointly define an enclosed intermediate space open to an  
operator of said work apparatus so as to permit the operator to  
enter said space with said handles being at respective sides of  
5   the operator.